

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and reexamination and reconsideration of the subject application, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. § 1.112, are respectfully requested in light of the remarks which follow.

I. Claim Amendments

By the foregoing amendment, claims 1-8 have been amended, and new claims 10-24 have been added.

In particular, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the external preparation composition comprises at least one percutaneous absorption accelerator, as well as the at least one acyl glucosamine derivative. Support for this amendment can be found at least at pages 15-16 of the present specification.

Claims 2-8 have been amended to recite particular embodiments of claim 1, as supported throughout the specification and claims as filed. For example, the amendments to claims 2 and 6 are supported at least at page 7, lines 13-16 of the specification; the amendments to claims 3 and 8 are supported at least at page 7, lines 17-19; and the amendments to claim 5 are supported at least at page 9, line 2 and page 14, lines 17-22.

Other amendments to claims 1-8 have been made to clarify the claim language and bring the claims into better conformance with U.S. patent practice. These amendments are merely editorial in nature and are not intended to change the scope of the claims or any elements recited therein.

New claims 9-12 recite particular embodiments of the inventive composition, and are supported at least at page 9, line 7 of the specification.

New claims 13-24 are directed to novel methods for using the acyl glucosamine derivatives. These claims are supported throughout the application as filed (*see, e.g.*, page 7, lines 8-12).

The amendments to the claims have been made without prejudice or disclaimer to any subject matter recited or canceled herein. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuation and/or divisional applications directed to any canceled subject matter. No new matter has been added, and entry of the foregoing amendments of the above-identified application are respectfully requested.

II. Response to Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

A. At pages 2-4 of the Office Action, claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as purportedly anticipated by Fieser et al. (Journal of the American Chemical Society (1956), 78, 2825-32).

B. At pages 4-6 of the Office Action, claims 3-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being purportedly unpatentable over Fieser et al. (Journal of the American Chemical Society (1956), 78, 2825-32).

The rejections over Fieser et al. are respectfully traversed.

In order to expedite prosecution in the present application, and not to acquiesce to the Examiner's rejection, the claims have been amended as described above. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to recite an external preparation composition comprising at least one acyl glucosamine derivative and at least one percutaneous absorption accelerator. Applicants respectfully submit that Fieser et al. does not teach or suggest the subject matter of claims 1-8.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

CONCLUSION

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested and such action is earnestly solicited.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this Amendment and Reply or the application in general, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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